

Message Text

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17

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /024 W

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R 271520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837

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PASS USDOC/CAGNE AND OPIC/WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BAGB, EFIN, EINV, TS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT (OPIC)

REF: STATE 045331

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MESSAGES SENT REFTEL RECEIVED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH FORREST WALLACE LETTER TO ECON COUNSELOR LOGAN OF FEB 21 FORWARDING ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND COPIES OF LETTERS TO TERREL OF COFITOUR AND BERGGREN OF CEPEX. IN DISCUSSION OF MESSAGE AND LETTER, TERREL NOTED THAT COFITOUR VERY INTERESTED IN TABARKA PROJECT AND IS PROCEEDING AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE BELIEVES THIS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO WALLACE BUT IS PREPARED TO CONFIRM DIRECTLY TO HIM. BERGGREN NOTED CEPEX VERY PLEASED WITH POSITIVE REACTION OF WALLACE'S HAMBURG AND LONDON AGENTS TO POSSIBLE EXPORT OF TUNISIAN CITRUS. HE STATED THAT WALLACE TELEX WAS SENT TO BOTH AGENTS AS WALLACE HAD REQUESTED AND THAT FEW DAYS' DELAY IN AIR FREIGHT OF SAMPLES UNFORTUNATE BUT NOT UNUSUAL. BERGGREN ALSO NOTED THAT DATA REQUESTED BY WALLACE WAS AVAILABLE BEFORE WALLACE LEFT AND THAT APPROPRIATE CEPEX OFFICE IS SUPPOSED TO BE TRANSMITTING THEM. BERGGREN ADDED THAT HE HAS ASKED WALLACE TO ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE DIRECTLY TO BOUZIRI SINCE, AS AN ADVISOR WHO WILL SHORTLY BE LEAVING, HE, BERGGREN, DOES NOT WISH BE PLACED IN OPERATING CAPACITY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. BEGIN LOU. WHILE EMBASSY SUPPORTS WALLACE'S EFFORT
ESTABLISH AGRIBUSINESS VENTURE IN TUNISIA, WALLACE MUST
ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS. WALLACE
MESSAGE THROUGH EMBASSY TO COFITOUR RAISED NO DIFFICULTIES,
BUT HIS MESSAGE QUITE CRITICAL OF BOUZIRI OF CEPEX COULD
BE INTERPRETED AS EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN POSSIBLE CONFLICT
BETWEEN CEPEX AND US FIRM IN REGARD TO AGENCY RELATION-
SHIPS OF NO DIRECT RELATION TO PROPOSED AGRIBUSINESS
VENTURE. WHILE WE WISH TO BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON
WALLACE PROJECT SO WE CAN PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE
DEEM APPROPRIATE, WE RECOMMEND THAT WALLACE BE ADVISED
TO CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH TUNISIAN
AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH LATERAL INFORMATION COPIES FOR
EMBASSY. END LOU.
SEELYE

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